

Warwick Davis' career has been closely linked to that of the master of fantasy/illusion, George Lucas. In fact all four of his films to date have been made for Lucasfilms, a desirable relationship for the young Davis, who has ascended the cinematic ladder unassisted (or unhindered) by either a theatrical agent or a lawyer.

Davis is small in stature, but large in experience. The thing that struck me while talking to him was the assured, relaxed, self-confident tone of his voice. He is just eighteen, and his chosen career path is not acting, but directing.

After a promotional tour to Melbourne and Sydney and then to Auckland, New Zealand, after numerous interviews; after patiently answering the same set of questions time after time, Warwick Davis tolerantly settled back and prepared once more to comment on his relationship with Lucas, what it's like working with him, what his plans are and what it was like working on *Willow*.

Warwick's rise to fame shares something in common with the films in which he has appeared; an element of fantasy. At the age of eleven he answered a radio advertisement for people under four feet to appear in what was at the time 'the latest *Star Wars*' movie; the *Return Of The Jedi*. He was quickly ushered to the wardrobe department for fitting into an Ewok costume and played one of many Ewoks. It was while filming in America that he was chosen to star in a scene with Princess Leia as the first Ewok to find her after she falls off her speedi-bike. From this scene the character of Wicket was created, to reappear in two made-for-television films; *Caravan Of Courage* and *Battle For Endor*.

Willow was as equally an important film for Davis as it was for his mentor, Lucas. "He was around on the set a lot of the time, keeping an eye on things, checking we were on schedule... he had a strong interest in the film as both writer and executive producer". At the time, Lucas was also working on *Tucker: The Man And His Dream*.

Davis, commenting on his energy to promote *Willow*, said; "I think it is an important part. A lot of actors neglect this part of film making. They do the film and think that's it. It's important for myself. I want to see the film's success and it's good for me publicity-wise."

Commenting on his plans for the future, Davis indicated his desire to direct

Warwick of LucasLand

During his promotional tour of Australia and New Zealand, Warwick Davis spoke with Video International's New Zealand Editor, Les Bush, about the science fiction adventure, *Willow*.



films. "I bought a video camera after being in *The Return Of The Jedi* and I've been making videos since".

He has been commissioned to direct a music video for TV in England in April 1990 and has set up his own production company called Inch High Films. "I want to get into directing feature films

in the Hitchcock style. I like his sort of suspense thriller." Does that mean that he is turning his back on acting? "No. I'm finishing a special for American TV called *The Princess And The Dwarf* when I return, and there could be a sequel to *Willow*, but I don't know yet".

- Les Bush